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STATE PENITENTIARY

Reforms Carried out by Warden Leidigh in its Management.

MONEY SAVED TO THE STATE

A Few Points of Difference Between Former and Present Administrations.

A Record of Efficiency and Economy.

He who would take the role of his torian of the Nebraska State Penitentiary will find the task difficult but intensely interesting; not a pleasant occupation by any means, neither is the study of criminology—but both may be made of value to the human race, and hence, are worthy of attention.

The Nebraska State Penitentiary, as is well known throughout the state, has been for many years prior to 1895 looted upon as a sort of political charnel-house, and persons who had no direct knowledge of the fact, regarded it as a place where many thousands of dollars of the people's money was swallowed up yearly as in a maelstrom "without due process of law." Respectable republicans looked askance and feared that some crookedness was going on at the penitentiary, but none, except the persons inside the ring of rings, knew anything definite until later years.

Now that the searchlight of reform has been turned on for over three years at this institution, it is possible to give a fair statement of the public plundering, monstrous mismanagement and flagrant fraud which characterized every year of republican control at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. But let no one deceive himself with the belief that it is possible, even at this time, to show with accuracy all the leaks and petty thievery which occurred during the years preceding 1895. "Many of the legislative vouchers and bills," say the legislative investigating committee of 1897, "which should be on file with the secretary of state, are missing." It is possible that these may have been lost through negligence, but from our knowledge of republican methods, it is only fair to presume that these missing vouchers and bills were "lost" purposely. "The only information we have been able to obtain," continue the committee, "regarding them, is the statement that portions of the records and papers of the office were burned when the office was removed from the rooms now occupied by the adjutant-general to its present quarters, about the year 1873." What peculiar planetary conditions must have existed during that year! The very air must have been surcharged with republican rascality! But it is not the "crime of '73" with which we have to deal at this time.

Prior to 1870 persons convicted of felony were kept confined in the various county jails, but the legislature of 1870 enacted a law requiring "state prisoners" to be concentrated at or near Lincoln, and provision was made for their employment on buildings and in stone quarries, or their labor leased on contract, for the benefit of the state. (See Session Laws of 1870, page 23.) Under this law there was turned into the state treasury, as earnings of convicts for the years 1871 and 1872, the sum of \$2,779.97.

The legislature of 1873 enacted a law authorizing the proceeds of the labor of convicts to be applied to their support and maintenance. (See Session Laws of 1873, page 93.) Under this law the sum of \$8,490.85 was earned by convicts up to October 1, 1877, at which time the penitentiary and grounds were leased to W. H. B. Stout for a period of six years. By the terms of this contract, Stout agreed to board and clothe all convicts in the manner prescribed by law; to pay all expenses for the maintenance of the penitentiary, including the salaries, compensation and board of all necessary officers, guards and other help; to restore the penitentiary buildings, shops, yards and grounds, at the end of his term in as good condition as the same were at the time he took possession, reasonable damage by use, wear and tear, loss by fire, the act of God and public enemy excepted; that all tools, wagons, horses, live stock, cooking utensils, and personal property should be invoiced and appraised, and at the termination of the lease Stout should return the same, or other articles of like kind and quality, or pay the appraised value thereof.

It was further agreed that Stout should receive all of the labor, services and earnings of each convict, and the sum of 60 cents per day per convict in addition during the first two years; 55 cents per convict per day during the third and fourth years of the contract; and 50 cents during the fifth and sixth years. This contract was extended from time to time and the price per diem was finally reduced to 40 cents. Stout assigned his contract to C. W. Mosher, and later Mosher assigned to W. H. Dorgan.

Notwithstanding the law, no appraisal was made at the time Stout took possession of the penitentiary, although an inventory was taken. However, in 1895, the appraisers appointed to fix the value of Dorgan's interest, estimated the value of the articles named in this inventory at \$1,953.44, which amount was deducted from the amount found due to Dorgan.

House Bill No. 607, approved April

11, 1895, by Governor Holcomb, under the provisions of which the Dorgan contract was cancelled, has been held up as an evidence of republican wisdom and goodness. After entering into such an unbusinesslike contract and extending it from time to time, allowing the state to be robbed during a period of nearly eighteen years of approximately four hundred thousand dollars, it smacks much of death-bed repentance for the republican party to lay much claim to the people's confidence for having passed House Bill 607. Ever and anon some little uncompoop bobs up serenely and urges that the populists have no right to credit for administering a republican law, that whatever economy has resulted in the penitentiary management is wholly due to this republican measure, etc., etc., ad infinitum. It is not such ancient history that people have forgotten the stench arising from corrupt republican management of the penitentiary; they cried out against it in no uncertain voice, and no party dared to disregard the people's wishes in this matter. An examination into the history of the bill shows that six times as much opposition to it came from republicans as from populists. Seven members of the legislature voted against its passage, and only one of them—John C. Sorecher—was a populist. In the House 58 republicans and 15 populists and democrats voted "aye" on final passage; 2 republicans voted "No"; 14 republicans and 11 populists and democrats are counted absent and not voting. In the senate 20 republicans and 4 populists voted for the measure; 4 republicans and 1 populist against it; and 3 populists and 1 republican were absent and excused from voting. So much for the passage of the law. There is no doubt some of the populists and democrats were fearful that the measure was merely another republican steal—a fear not groundless, in the light of previous experience—but as a party both the democrats and populists bitterly opposed the unbusinesslike and unhumanitarian system of leasing the penitentiary and labor of the convicts.

A reading of House Bill 607 will disclose that the Board of Public Lands and Buildings were empowered to appoint one appraiser, Dorgan another, and the governor was authorized to appoint an umpire, whose duty was thus set forth: "In case said appraisers shall fail to agree upon the value of said contract, or of any of said property, they shall submit their matters of difference to said umpire, and his decision upon the matters submitted to him shall be final and binding upon both parties."

The Board of Public Lands and Buildings selected and appointed W. J. Broatch as one appraiser and Dorgan named A. H. Gale as the other. Governor Holcomb appointed J. N. Gaffin as umpire. During the entire appraisal period no difference as to "the value of said contract, or of any of the property" seem to have arisen between the appraisers; hence, Mr. Gaffin was unfortunately not called on to settle many differences. I say "unfortunately," because the appraisal was a grand steal from start to finish, being from two to five times too high on almost every article of property; the estimate on the value of Dorgan's unexpired term was probably the only thing within reason—and that \$40,705.90 (for 53 months,) representing what Dorgan would have profited had the lease not been cancelled, also represents what the state would have lost. The appraisers say that by sub-contracting Dorgan could clear fully \$20,000 a year, which is no doubt correct, hence, 18 years of this system, means that the state lost at least \$360,000. Space will not permit an extended inquiry into this appraisal, but the ordinary farmer knows that old mules at \$125.00 each, milk cows at \$10 and \$50, calves at \$13, are fancy prices for the year 1895. Any person who will take the trouble to write Hon. W. F. Porter, secretary of state, Lincoln, may, while the supply lasts, secure a copy of the "Report of Appraisers for Purchase Prison Contract and Property" and see for himself the outrageous valuation placed upon many things; much of the property must be seen, however, to realize how completely these appraisers seemed to be in the employ of Dorgan.

Following is a summary of the appraisers' report:

Cash value of inventory.....	\$25,818.71
Cash value of 53 months of unexpired contracts.....	40,705.90
Total.....	\$66,524.61
Deduct cost of 80 cells.....	\$ 9,242.84
Deduct value Stout invoice.....	1,953.44
Total.....	\$11,196.33
Balance due Dorgan.....	\$55,364.93

The law provided an appropriation of \$15,000 to carry out its provisions, and this amount was expended as follows:

A. H. Gale, appraiser.....	\$ 500.00
J. N. Gaffin, umpire.....	510.10
W. J. Broatch, appraiser.....	510.10
M. E. Free.....	25.00
Davis & Cowgill, experts.....	33,408.90
W. H. Dorgan.....	\$45,000.00

Total.....

It will be noted that the appraisers estimated Dorgan's interest at \$55,364.93, but finding that he could not at that time be paid more than \$33,000, they reported, under date of June 8, 1895, final report, under date of June 8, 1895, to the Board of Public Lands and Buildings, they said: "The appraisers find the state indebted to W. H. Dorgan in the sum of thirty-three thousand four hundred and eighty dollars and ninety cents (\$33,488.90.)" If this finding be regarded as a final settlement of Dorgan's claim against the state, there is no doubt that the state profited by the purchase, but there is apparently an unpaid balance of \$21,953.03 which, if the appraisement be honest and just, is surely due Dorgan. When I say "profit" I mean that the state recovered part of its birthright which the re-

RAILROAD BOSS RULE

Editor Rosewater Reminds the Republican Party of the Causes of Its Downfall.

THE TOOL OF CORPORATIONS.

Railroad Politicians Preparing to Name the Republican Ticket This Week.

Facts From a Republican Source.

No man knows the inside history of Nebraska politics better than E. Rosewater, of the Omaha Bee. No one is better qualified to rehearse the story of how the republican organization in Nebraska became the agent and pander of corporate harlotry than Rosewater. And no one knows better than he the position now making by which the old corporation gang intend to retain their control. Rosewater's opinion of the situation just now has special interest. Here it is as given in the Bee last week:

"Ten years ago Nebraska elected its republican state ticket by more than 25,000 majority and gave Benjamin Harrison a plurality of over 28,000. Two years later the state elected a democratic governor and the republican executive officers barely squeezed through. The prevailing impression that this tremendous upheaval was caused by the folly of forcing the prohibition issue on the people is by no means correct. Prohibition unquestionably lost the republicans many thousand votes, but the main factor in the upheaval was the revolt of the republican farmers against oppressive railroad exactions and corporate domination of the party. With perverse blindness the self-styled party leaders closed their eyes and ears to the portentous figures presented by the election returns of 1890. Out of an aggregate of 210,000 votes the republican candidate polled a fraction less than 69,000, the populist candidate a little over 70,000, and the democratic candidate nearly 72,000. Manifestly the political forces were almost equally divided into three camps of 70,000 each."

Any man with a grain of political sagacity should have realized that the chances of the republicans were hopeless unless they could keep the two opposing forces from effecting a junction. Instead of pursuing a policy looking to this end, the republicans under the guidance of John L. Webster and several other equally impolitic captains, virtually drove the democrats into the populist camp by their foolhardy attempt to keep Boyd out of the governorship to which he had been elected.

Recognizing the peril by which the party was confronted on account of the deep-seated anti-monopoly sentiment, the republicans attempted to retrace their misstep in 1892 by making Lorenzo Crouse their standard bearer. Yet it was only by the division of the opposition that they succeeded in carrying the state for Harrison and Crouse by insignificant pluralities.

In the face of this precarious condition and the scandals brought to light by the impeachment proceedings of 1893, the same leaders who had come to the rescue of the impeached officials and failed to recognize the imperative demand for purging the party from the reign of boodism, persisted in 1894 in delivering the party hand and foot to corporate bosses, who wanted simply to use it in promoting their own ends through pliant tools. Still the lesson in 1894 seems to have made but a slight impression upon these untrustworthy leaders. Instead of repressing further attempts to make the party subservient to the railroad managers, they seem bent on inviting fresh disaster and thus finishing their work of party wrecking.

Although no new hostile movement against railroads is on foot or threatened, the railroad politicians are already preparing a complete state ticket which the republican convention is to nominate without crossing a t or dotting an i. If this folly is persisted in and the convention degenerates into a mere register of orders from railroad headquarters, the encouraging prospect for winning back the disaffected anti-monopoly elements of the party will prove delusive. Unless the rank and file of the republican party are allowed free choice of their standard bearers and the railroad managers content themselves with assurance of fair treatment at the party's hands, the campaign of 1898 will be a repetition of the campaigns of 1896 and 1897.

"Poynter's chief merit lies in the fact that he is a farmer and is identified with the producing class."—Omaha Bee

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G. O. P. CONVENTION.

Names a Ticket to "Redeem Nebraska"—Declare for the Gold Standard and Promise to Be Good.

The republican state convention met in Lincoln Wednesday. There was a large attendance most of the counties being represented. The delegates were, however, not so many in number as those of the populist convention last week and there was considerable difference in personnel. Comparatively few farmers sat as delegates, most of them being professional and business men. There was a large number of ex-county officers, a liberal sprinkling of the old time managers and besides these a good many new faces.

The State Chairman Dave Mercer, made a speech in which he said "Nebraska must be got out of the hole she is in politically. You may be surprised at what I tell you, but I know several large concerns in the east that are about to invest large sums in Nebraska enterprises if the state goes republican this fall."

C. W. Conklin of Burt county was made temporary chairman. He made a speech. Never was a chairman so discourteously treated before in any convention. Conklin and his friends were for Ben Baker for governor. This was a concession the Hayward managers had made for the sake of harmony. The trouble was that there was no harmony. The Hayward delegates openly insulted him with cries of "Hurrah for Hayward" followed by shouts of "Time" and "Ring off."

The temporary chairman's speech was rank enough republican to suit any g. o. p. audience. Among other things he said: "The Omaha platform—that peculiar document more sacred to its followers than the constitution of the United States, was framed in Nebraska. The populist party—the child of illit and unholy union, was born in this state. It was nursed and cradled on our soil. The people of this great nation will sing a glad requiem over the grave, or rather over the remains, of this unnatural and un-American political monstrosity. The only trouble about burying it is that we shall be reluctant to deposit its rotten carcass in Nebraska soil."

Some one sprang to his feet and moved that the temporary organization be made permanent. There was vigorous opposition from the Hayward men and finally a delegate on the stage moved as a substitute that Senator John M. Thurston be made permanent chairman. This carried although there was quite a strong volume of "noes" indicating the presence of some disappointed office seekers.

Thurston made a speech in his usual vein. As a result of McKinley's election more business was being done in America than ever before. Labor was employed, the wheels went round and homesteads rose to kiss a happy sky. "It has been reported in the press that I favored the return of Senator Allen. I have only this to say, that any republican in better than the very best man the opposition can present. We must redeem Nebraska this fall. God knows that enlightenment must come some day to even the most benighted of human beings. And we trust that God in His infinite wisdom will pour out patriotism upon the popocratic aggregation in Nebraska."

The list of members of the committee on resolutions had been prepared in conference beforehand and the temporary chairman read it before leaving the desk as follows:

Brad Slaughter, Chairman.
E. Rosewater, Omaha.
A. M. Post, Columbus.
Kearney of Douglas.
McPherson, of Kearney.
Weston, of Gage.
Penny, of Lincoln.
L. D. Richards, of Dodge.
Orlando Tefft, of Cass.

It will be noted that the "old crowd" of republicans who have been handling the party for years are well represented. Roll call was ordered for governor. It was known beforehand that Hayward's nomination was a sure thing and a good many of his backers were impatient that Ben Baker did not withdraw. Douglas county voted her 100 votes solid for Baker. Most of the other counties went solid for Hayward. It was evident that the man who sent Joe Bartley to the penitentiary for twenty years was not popular among his own people, and by the time the roll was a little over half completed Judge Baker rose in his seat and withdrew his name. Hayward's nomination was then made unanimous.

The rest of the ticket was then named without much trouble. The usual Douglas county row was precipitated when an effort was made by outside delegates to force the nomination of Luther M. Drake, for state treasurer. The Douglas county delegates insisted that they didn't want that office and wouldn't have it and were finally given the office of commissioner of public lands and buildings.

The ticket as completed is as follows: Governor—M. L. Hayward, of Otoe. Lieutenant-Governor—George A. Murphy, of Gage.
Secretary of State—C. Duran, of Saline.
Auditor—T. L. Matthews, of Dodge.
Treasurer—Peter Mortensen, of Ord.
Supt. Public Instruction—J. F. Saylor, of Lancaster.

Attorney-General, N. D. Jackson, of Antelope.
Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings—Theo. Williams of Douglas.

Adopts Gold Standard.

Yokohama, Aug. 10.—(Special telegram from the Associated Press to the Post.)—Reports from Seoul state that Korea has adopted the gold standard.

A BATTLE AT MANILA

Several Americans Killed in a Spanish Attack on the Malate Garrison.

MANY SPANIARDS KILLED

News of the Battle Delayed in Reaching Hong Kong Several Days.

Number Lost Is in Question

Manila, July 31, via Hong Kong, Aug. 9.—A heavy engagement took place tonight between the American and Spanish forces at Malate. The Spanish made an attack, attempting to turn our right. After three hours fighting they were repulsed. The troops engaged were the Tenth Pennsylvania, First California, Third California, Third artillery regulars and battery A, Utah. Our loss was eleven killed and thirty-seven wounded. The Spanish loss was upward of 200 killed and 300 wounded. Our volunteers made a glorious defense against upward of 3,000 of an attacking force.

Another Story of the Fight

London, Aug. 9.—(Dispatch from Hong Kong—Special telegram to the Post.)—The German Steamer Petrach, which left Manila on Aug. 6, has arrived here. It brings news of a bloody battle near Manila on the night of July 31.

Spanish forces attacked the American camp at Manila, hurling 3,000 soldiers in a solid front against the Americans.

While the attack was unexpected it did not find the American forces unprepared. The Spanish charged the American lines several times, each time being compelled to fall back.

Finally the steady and deadly fire of the Americans broke the Spanish center, and the enemy retreated in confusion.

Later the Spaniards made a second charge and were compelled to seek the shelter of the bushes. They, however, kept up an incessant fire.

Eleven Americans were killed and thirty-seven were wounded, while the Spanish losses are ten times greater. During the fighting the insurgents remained neutral.

Losses Reported Differently

Cavite, Aug. 6, via Hong Kong.—(Special Telegram to the Post.)—The monitor Monterey arrived today in Manila bay, reinforcing Admiral Dewey and making his fleet the strongest in Asiatic waters. With the Monterey came three transports which sailed with General Merritt from San Francisco, but were delayed at Honolulu.

The American forces engaged the enemy before Malate last Sunday night and compelled them to retreat with heavy loss.

Our troops lost thirteen killed and forty-seven wounded.

The fighting lasted four hours. The American troops engaged in the fighting were a part of the Tenth Pennsylvania, First California, Third regular artillery.

The Spanish led the attack in attempting to dislodge our troops by a flanking movement from the strong position they have been holding near the enemy's lines.

The position is still held by the American forces.

San Francisco, Aug. 9.—(Special to the Post.)—A Manila special to the Examiner, dated July 31, says that battery A of Utah light artillery was also engaged in the fight.

The special says the American loss was nine killed and forty-four wounded, and that the Spanish loss was upwards of two hundred killed and three hundred wounded.

Washington, Aug. 9.—(Special telegram to the Post.)—General Merritt has cabled the war department that a severe engagement took place the night of July 1 between the Spanish and American troops near Manila. The Americans were victorious, but lost nine killed and nine seriously wounded.

Washington, Aug. 9.—(Special telegram to the Post.)—General Alger regards the attack by the Spanish on the American forces at Manila as the beginning for a general attack on the Philippine capital by General Merritt.

Washington, Aug. 9.—(Special to the Post.)—General Merritt's official report of the battle at Manila says: "To gain approach to the city General Green's outposts were advanced to continue the line from Camino Real to the beach on Sunday night. The Spanish made a sharp attack. The artillery behaved well and held the position, but it was necessary to call out the brigade. Spanish loss is rumored heavy."

List of Killed

"Our loss: Tenth Pennsylvania—John Brady, Walter Brown, William E. Britton, Jacob Hull, Jesse Noss, William Stillwagon; First California—Maurice Just; Third artillery—Ell Dawson; First Colorado—Fred Springstead.

"Seriously wounded: Tenth Pennsylvania—Sergeant Alva Walker; privates, Lee Snyder, Victor Holmes, C. B. Carter, Arthur Johnson; First Cali-

fornia—Captain R. Richter; private, C. J. Edwards; Third artillery—Priest Charles Winfield, J. A. McElroth.

"Thirty-eight were slightly wounded. "Landing at the camp was delayed on account of high surf.

"McArthur's troops arrived on the 31st. "No epidemic of sickness. Five deaths have occurred. Lieutenant Kerr of the engineers' corps died of spinal meningitis."

Fought Like Veterans

Washington, Aug. 9.—(Special Telegram to the Post.)—Sunday was insurgent feast day at Manila, and Aginaldo had withdrawn the right flank, leaving the American right flank exposed. Two companies, the Tenth Pennsylvania and Utah battery, were ordered to reinforce the right. In the midst of a raging typhoon, with a tremendous downpour of rain, the enemies forces, estimated at 3,000, attempted to surprise the camp. The Pennsylvanians never flinched, but stood their ground under a withering fire. The alarm spread and the First California and two companies of the Third artillery, who fought with rifles, were sent to reinforce them. The enemy was on top of the trenches when the reinforcements arrived and never was the discipline of regulars better demonstrated than by the work of the Third artillery.

Nothing could be seen but the flashes of the Mauser rifles, and the men ran right up to the attacking Spaniards, moving them down with regular volleys. The Utah battery covered the Spaniards through the mud ankle deep. Two guns were sent around to the flank and sent in a destructive enfilading fire. During the flashes of lightning the dead and wounded could be seen lying in blood red water. Fighting was renewed on the nights of August 1 and 2.

Americans Disgusted

Cavite, Manila Bay, Aug. 3, via Hong Kong.—(special telegram to the Post.)—Americans are disgusted with the conduct of Aginaldo, the insurgent leader.

His power is rapidly weakening owing to the fact that the Filipinos are beginning to realize the unsubstantial quality of his promises.

Two insurgent steamers in the bay are provisioning to insure Aginaldo's escape if it becomes necessary.

Rough Riders Arrive

New York, Aug. 10.—(Special telegram to the Post.)—Four troops of rough riders arrived this morning. They were heartily cheered.

A deputy United States marshal had a desperate fight this morning with a Chinaman who arrived on a British vessel and claimed to belong to the United States navy.

A New Military Camp

Washington, Aug. 10.—(Special Telegram to the Post.)—The war department has decided to establish a new military camp in the Blue Grass region of Kentucky. It is probable that the troops now at Chickamauga will be marched to the new camp.

Found an Infernal Machine

New York, Aug. 10.—(Special telegram to the Post.)—What was supposed to be an infernal machine was found this morning on the foundations of the New Boston signal light at Newbrite, Staten island.

Fever Develops Enroute

New York, Aug. 10.—(Special telegram to the Post.)—There are thirty cases of fever in the Sixth cavalry contracted on the way from Tampa to Montauk Point. There are also several cases of measles.

Sails For Porto Rico

New York, Aug. 10.—(Special telegram to the Post.)—The transport Chester, with the first regiment of volunteer engineers numbering 1,200 sailed today for Porto Rico.

Troops in Camp to Come North

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The disposition of troops which are not now needed for active service at once was considered by the department officials, and the determination was reached that there would be a general movement from the larger camps. Some of those troops will be sent North, where they will be in a cooler climate, and stationed at camps which are under consideration, but which have not yet been definitely selected.

The Wiser Way

"How fresh and rosy you look, Nora," exclaimed Isabel, who had just returned from the beach, and was greeting her friend.

"Yes, dear," replied Nora, "I am feeling splendidly, and mamma says I have an alarming appetite."

"Where in the world have you been since I saw you?"

"I have remained at home," replied Nora, "and have worked hard every day. But I have been taking that wonderful medicine, Hood's Sarsaparilla, and it has done me, oh, so much good. You see I always like to feel well when I go away, and I leave for the mountains next week."